



Conflict of Interest — Nepotism

Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC)



What is nepotism?

Nepotism is when any public officer or employee in Missouri, who by virtue of his office or employment, names or appoints to public office or employment any relative within the 4th degree by consanguinity (blood) or affinity (marriage or adoption). (*Article VII, Section 6 of the Missouri Constitution*). In addition, the political subdivision's own policies and procedures should be consulted.



How do I know if someone is related within the 4th degree?

There are numerous charts which outline degrees of family relationships available or you may use the *Relationship Chart* found on MEC's website.



What is the penalty for nepotism?

The penalty for nepotism is automatic forfeiture of office. Legal action may be pursued (by the appropriate prosecuting attorney or disciplinary authority) to remove the individual from office or employment.



View our other Conflict of Interest Resources

[Conflict of Interest Guide](#)

[Conflict of Interest FAQs](#)

[Relationship Chart](#)



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helpdesk@mec.mo.gov

800-392-8660 or 573-751-2020